

*COVERS COST OF COLLEGE FOR CHILDREN OF TROOPS WHO HAVE DIED IN LINE OF DUTY SINCE 9/11*

**Washington, D.C.** – Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA-2) announced that the Department of Veterans Affairs will start taking applications May 1st for The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship, which Congress passed and was signed into law last year. The “Fry scholarship” expands the New GI Bill education benefits to cover the full cost of a college education for all of the children of service members who have died on active duty on or after September 11, 2001.

Congressman Bishop, said, “This legislation honors the sacrifice of our military families, who are truly the unsung heroes of our nation’s defense. No one is more deserving of our nation’s support than children whose moms or dads have given their lives in military service to our nation.”

#### Fry Scholarship

- All children of members of the Armed Forces who have died in the line of duty while on active duty on or after September 11, 2001, are eligible for 36 months of tuition and fees up to the maximum in-state tuition and as well as a monthly living stipend, and book allowance.
- The VA will begin accepting applications for this benefit tomorrow, May 1, 2010.
- The benefit took effect August 1, 2009, and the VA must begin making payments no later than August 1, 2010 with retroactive payments for children enrolled in college from August 1, 2009 through July 31, 2010.
- Surviving military children have 15 years to use their benefits, beginning on their 18th birthdays.
- For more information, visit the VA website at <http://www.gibill.va.gov> or call 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-88-442-4551)
- VA estimates 1,500 military children will be eligible for the Fry scholarship in 2010.

This provision, authored by Rep. Chet Edwards, was enacted as part of the Supplemental Appropriations Act in 2009 in honor of Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry, 28, a Texas native who died in Iraq in 2006 while disarming an explosive. He is survived by three young children.

This legislation builds on a record of accomplishments for our veterans and members of the military -- including the new G.I. Bill to provide returning troops with the promise of a college education; historic investments in veterans' health care and providing that funding one year in advance to prevent political or legislative delays; expanding economic opportunities for returning soldiers and improving care for those with PTSD; and “landmark legislation” providing support to family members and others who care for wounded veterans and enhancing health services for the 1.8 million women veterans.

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